

Utility Patent Application

5 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Patent Application based on: Docket No. 99-533

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SLIP-ON, INSULATING AND DECORATIVE COVER FOR
BICYCLE SAFETY HELMETS

RELATED APPLICATIONS AND DISCLOSURES

15 There were no previously filed, nor any copending applications anywhere
in the world.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

20 1. Field of the Invention

25 The present invention relates generally to safety helmet and hard hat
covers, and, more particularly, to slip-on, elastic, fabric cover for hard hats and
the like.

2. Description of the Related Art

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of the present invention to provide an improved slip-on, elastic, fabric cover for hard hats and the like that is designed to have images, logos and the like placed thereon, post manufacture, without image distortion occurring once the hard hat cover is placed on the hard hat and the like.

Briefly described according to one embodiment of the present invention, a slip-on, elastic, fabric cover for hard hats and the like is disclosed, designed for use with conventional hard hats and the like. The present invention consists of a main body, constructed of an elastic material that stretches to fit over and contracts to fit the contour of a hard hat structure. Available in a variety of colors and patterns, the main body provides an effective, low cost method by which one can customize his or her hard hat, or add a company name or logo in order to create a business identity. It is envisioned that the main body is comprised of a flame retardant material. A main body retention means is attached to the ends of the main body, so as to form a generally enclosed structure.

At least one stiffened segment is located on the main body. The stiffened segment is designed to permit a visual media, such as a logo or company name, to be imprinted thereon, using imprinting techniques, such as silk screen and the like, without distortion of the image occurring when the main body is subsequently stretched over the hard hat. As such, the stiffened segment is designed to reduce the elasticity of that portion of the main body to a sufficient degree to reduce noticeable distortion of the visual media once the main body is applied to the hard hat.

It is envisioned that the stiffened segment may take on a variety of sizes and configurations, depending on the cross sectional area needed to place a particular visual media on the main body.

It is envisioned that the main body is washable. It is envisioned that a reflective coating be placed on the main body, thus permitting the present invention to be used by construction workers and the like, for safety purposes, as is required by applicable state and federal regulations.

In an alternate embodiment of the present invention, the stiffened segment is replaced with a patch attachment means, such as Velcro. The patch attachment means is positioned in the same position as the stiffened segment was positioned. The patch attachment means permits patches, conceivably containing company logos and the like, to be releasably secured to the main

body.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a device that conforms to the contour of a hard hat and the like.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a device that is self-
5 securing.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a device that can be easily slid on and off the hard hat.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a device that is washable.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a device that comes in a variety of colors and patterns, to suit workers' taste and facilitate individuality.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a device that utilizes printed or embroidered text or logos, thus being used for advertising purposes or
15 to promote company identification.

DESCRIPTIVE KEY

10 slip-on, elastic, fabric cover for hard hats and the like
20 hard hat and the like
30 main body

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40 pattern
50 visual media
55 main body retention means
60 stiffened segment
70 reflective coating
80 patch attachment means
90 patch

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

10 The advantages and features of the present invention will become better understood with reference to the following more detailed description and claims taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which like elements are identified with like symbols, and in which:

15 FIG. 1 is a front perspective view of the preferred embodiment of slip-on, elastic, fabric cover for hard hats and the like 10, in use with a hard hat or the like;

FIG. 2 is a bottom view thereof;

FIG. 3 is an elevational view of the main body;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged view of the stiffened segment;

20 FIG. 5 is a left side view of the present invention in-use; and

FIG. 6 is a front perspective view of an alternate embodiment of the present invention.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The best mode for carrying out the invention is presented in terms of its preferred embodiment, herein depicted within the Figures 1 through 5.

1. Detailed Description of the Figures

5 Referring now to FIG. 1, a slip-on, elastic, fabric cover for hard hats and the like 10 is shown, according to the present invention, designed for use with conventional hard hats 20 and the like.

Referring now to FIGS. 1 and 2, the present invention comprises a main body 30, constructed of an elastic material that stretches to fit over and contracts to fit the contour of a hard hat 20 structure. Available in a variety of colors and patterns 40, the main body 30 provides an effective, low cost method by which one can customize his or her hard hat 20, perhaps adding a visual media 50, such as a company name or logo in order to create a business identity. It is envisioned that the main body 30 is comprised of a flame retardant material.

15 Referring now to FIGS 2 and 3, a main body retention means 55 is attached to the ends of the main body 30, so as to form a generally enclosed structure. For purposes of disclosure, this main body retention means 55 is depicted as an elastic band.

20 Referring now to FIGS. 1 and 4, at least one stiffened segment is located on the main body 30. The stiffened segment 60 is designed to permit a visual

media 50, such as a logo or company name, to be imprinted thereon, using imprinting techniques, such as silk screen and the like, without distortion of the image occurring when the main body 30 is subsequently stretched over the hard hat 20. As such, the stiffened segment 60 is designed to reduce the elasticity of that portion of the main body 30 to a sufficient degree to reduce noticeable distortion of the visual media 50 once the main body 30 is placed over and onto the hard hat 20.

It is envisioned that the stiffened segment 60 may be formed by any of several stiffening means known in the manufacturing industry, such as impregnating the fibers of the main body 30, hard drying glue or adhesive, etc.

It is envisioned that the stiffened segment 60 may take on a variety of sizes and configurations, depending on the cross sectional area needed to place a particular visual media 50 on the main body 30.

Referring now to FIG. 5, it is envisioned that the main body 30 is washable. It is also envisioned that a reflective coating 70 is located on the main body 30, thus permitting the present invention to be used by construction workers and the like, for safety purposes, as is required by applicable state and federal regulations.

Referring now to FIG. 6, in an alternate embodiment of the present invention, a patch attachment means 80 is affixed to the stiffened segment 60.

The patch attachment means 80 permits patches 90, conceivably containing company logos and the like, and of varying sizes and configurations, to be releasably secured to the main body 30. For purposes of disclosure, these patch attachment means are depicted as comprised of Velcro.

5 It is envisioned that other styles and configurations of the main body 30, stiffened segment 60, reflective coating 70 and patch attachment means 80 can be easily incorporated into the teachings of the present invention, and only one particular configuration shall be shown and described for purposes of clarity and disclosure and not by way of limitation of scope.

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2. Operation of the Preferred Embodiment

To use the present invention, the main body 30 is cut from materials commonly used in the manufacturing industry. A stiffened segment 60 is then formed on the main body 30. The user then imprints the visual media 50 onto the stiffened segment 60, and wait for the visual media 50 to dry. Finally, the user places the main body 30 on the hard hat 20 or the like.

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The foregoing description is included to illustrate the operation of the preferred embodiment and is not meant to limit the scope of the invention. The scope of the invention is to be limited only by the following claims.